

assumed was the law prior to that Attorney General's Opinion. Beyond that, I think that we're starting down a dangerous road if we're going to frame the debate in terms of spreading out money and making sure that the quarter horse tracks continue to get funded even though that they have demonstrated that they're not able to run, because we're at a point where racing in Nebraska could be nonexistent five years from now, three years from now, whenever. It's been in trouble. It's continuing to be in trouble. LB 1061, if LB 1061 would come down because of...because of an issue such as the quarter horse tracks, we'd simply be in a position where the flagship track of the State of Nebraska in Douglas County may not be in a position to operate much longer and, if that's the case, I have to wonder how long the other tracks in the State of Nebraska, the thoroughbred tracks, not to mention the quarter horse tracks, would be able to operate. So if you do, this bill's not going to live or die on this amendment, but if continue down that road and we continue to adopt other amendments along this line and 1061 is seriously damaged, that will bode ill for the racing industry as a whole. So I think we need to be very careful. I think you can...you can vote down the Schellpeper amendment and it's, like I said, it's not going to kill the bill. I don't think it's wise. I think the Schellpeper amendment reflects what's currently in law and if that's a change that we want to make we probably ought to bring a bill and do it next session, but I think if we begin to dilute the distribution of racing money in the State of Nebraska beyond that which the industry can support right now to simply try and prop up parts of the industry that aren't healthy, that's not a decision that's in the best interests of racing in the State of Nebraska. And if that's the line we want to pursue, if we want to pursue a line that protects everyone that was alive and well during the heyday of racing in the mid-eighties, I don't think that's something that's viable. I don't think that's a road that we can travel down and be safe and save the elements of the industry that are savable at this point. I would urge your support for the Schellpeper amendment. I would urge you to be very careful about the way that you vote on this in subsequent amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Bohlke, followed by Senators Nelson, Schellpeper and Abboud.

SENATOR BOHLKE: I'll waive off.